My dear Father Rome Jan 11. 1824

I send another Picture for you to let some kind officer too. Have a straining frame made quite like that to the Boar Picture. Then put into the frame and send it to the Royal Academy with all possible speed it is for the inspection of the Council of the R. A. to know to them that I do not pass my time idly — I have sent an account to them of my doings. I find that I have finished one Large original picture and three small ones — have made 45 copies in Oil for the finish pictures I have seen — and finished 60 Academy figures in Chalks — and made 20 Original Compositions in outline and I think this is a fair proof that I have not been idle —

I hope you will thank my Greek Professors the first of Aberdeen — now mind and let me know this? because I set as light value on your remarks — Dont be afraid of telling me the truth — the subject is my own invention — I find it is a frequent reference in Greece — ~~Miss Porter informs me~~ I know that you will be happy to know that this picture is conditionally sold for 50 £ but as I have not received the positive orders about it it is still to be considered as mine because the Gentleman is rather poor to purchase it — I am sure of his money — After the Academy has seen it it may remain at Lord's until further orders from me — Pray tell Lord to hang it up with the light on the left hand

We are like making a most pleasant house full — I have with me my friends Mr Brown & Mr Ewing — Mr West a nephew of the Presidents he is an Artist — and a Son of Mr Hunts about 12 years old — so we all dine together — and make it not only reasonable but very comfortable — Mr Brown is the acting manager — he directs the cooking — buying and keeps us young Chaters in order — & what a kind good man he is — putting aside his delightful conversation and learning — he has sent a Voice open and generous heart — that I can never [illegible] the kindness and attention he has rendered me — I advise all my friends to visit — and to strangers who are right to be shown

spirits when I am melancholy - when his perpetual good nature and mad jests — and when I am ill he nurses me and takes me his carriage of it — so that you see I could not have met a more valuable friend - for tho' as he is a man of business, he has managed my money affairs and now reduced my expences - my house is very large - so that we have plenty of Room — the English Academy is likewise part of it

I have not done any pictures yet - that I should like to be my Father's above your Gallery — this next Summer I devote to the study of Landscape - when I hope to turn out something that shall delight you - Landscape will compleat my long range of difficult studies — in each of which I have not spared labor, pains or expence — I could never have got them had I not been blessed thanks be God with this pension — I know you will quite agree with me as to the course I have taken - I found that my learning in Painting was nothing so that my endeavour has been to acquire this while I had the means — this was not to be done by painting pictures alone but by all the preparation and the laying in of stores for my future practice — "for out of nothing — nothing can come" — I have no doubt it has been wondered at that I have not exhibited at Somerset House every year - this was the reason that I had not had the advantages of the Stone Arches — Now I have — and I hope to come out successfully —

I have had a slight attack of the Jaundice which has now left me - I am tolerably well in health but not young for I feel 60 years old - this climate is the Devil - but now I think I know how to be even with it. — I suppose you know a great deal more about Rome than I do — all the important things are sooner known in London than here — there is such a miserable want of spirit and daring - Maria tells me that she is write for you to me - this will be a great comfort to me - it will be like one more seeing you — at this moment you are at dinner - would to God I was with you — Good bye my dear Father may God preserve me to see you once more and it will satisfy the sincere wish of my heart - Good bye — your faithful Son Joseph

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My dear Charles, Rome Jan 31th 1824

I can't help telling you and Tom of a spirit of determination which has come across me during the last fast— I have known here some time a Mr F— who is a Gentleman of Fortune he keeps his Carriage and seems to live in the finest style— he is a Man of great Accomplishments— well acquainted with almost all Languages— has travelled over a great part of the World— he is a tender open hearted man— willing to serve any one— kind and affable in his manner— and every way a Man whom you would think & would find a Friend every where— and that way one most despise— but as he is hated— all run away from him as a Pestilence— he is a Liar.— yet his lies only hurt himself— they are very notorious— he is discarded by almost every one— his Wife and Sister— who are the most accomplished and amiable Ladies are almost shut out from Society on his account— and all this from that little miserable vice of Lying— It has made such havock of his mind— that he believes his own lies— and condemns in others lying as the most horrible vice— even more than thieving.— Now this singular example made a great impression on me— I saw this man who possesses every personal comfort in this world— treated as a Criminal— I found that this had come on him from little beginnings— more exaggerations at first— mere mocking jokes at the expense of truth— Now I said to myself this quality is dangerous even in its slightest degree— may it not increase on me also— the situation is awful— from this moment— mark me my dear Brothers and make the same resolve— it is easy.— I will never in the slightest degree depart from Truth— even in my moments of fun when I may be the bearer of good tidings.— for since this example came before my eyes— I have been horrified at the tendency the mind has to falsehood therefore I will examine every word I utter— when I am present with my Friends— the very pleasure of their society animates me to that false pitch— but now no more— not even a shadow of a word after the example— in my life I have told many lies— and I thank God that they have never gone to the injury of another— but now it is worthy Policy— which shows me the silliness of such a practice— Think what a pitch— to have not one word believed— to be left almost desolate— and yet to have the most splendid abilities— fortune— every thing— and not one friend— for in any station of Life it is worse— all confidence is lost— and when

[illegible] about a shave left— I was one morn at the Roman Theatre with some friends of mine— when one said to me "that Victor is the King"— and I replied "Yes yes I know" merely because I would not give him the trouble of describing the part— but he was aware that I did not know it— and that I had consequently told a falsehood— and having a great respect for me he said "Even you sometimes Fib" Think how little more it would require to make me lose his confidence— Now I have said so much as respects myself but with the kindest intentions to my dear Brother— I have never

[illegible] by an unbroken seal— Like mine— and bearing the same address— and being written upon the same sheet of paper— I have made it a point never to open a letter addressed to another person— and I would request the favour of you to do the same by mine— as I have many things to say to my dear Brother which I would not wish any other eye to see— and which I am sure he will not wish any other eye to see— Believe me my dear Sister Your affectionate Brother

John Keats

Miss Jeanne Keats
Wentworth Place
Hampstead
London

AUTHENTICATED
PAR
[illegible]

[illegible] 3 + 6 = 9
2 + 8 = 10
2 = 12

[illegible] in both of you these little Fibs— Now I implore you by our mutual love, to do as I have done— it is easy— this fashion you are already aware of it from one other example in London— first examine your words before you speak them— and ask your own conscience if they are the truth— in a few days it will be the easiest task— and the comfort of not having to put on this false appearance will be worth all the advantage that might come from using it— This Mr [illegible] is now trying to get a wife at his house— let us one and all— we have no doubt him— and think what a pamper[illegible] his Wife & Sister— they ignored after Mr Brown the very day [illegible]